



# Intelligence Information Report

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COUNTRY South Vietnam

DOI 1966 through 1968

SUBJECT American Prisoners of War

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ACQ

SOURCE



detention Camp A (XT 602495), Binh Duong Province, and Camp B (XT 495315), Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam, in SR-1. These two camps were consolidated after Tet 1968 at XT 602495 and became known as the Political Office Prison for SR-1. [redacted] not to allow non-Vietnamese prisoners to remain in the two prison camps but to send them to the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) in Cambodia as soon as possible. [redacted] was to notify COSVN when [redacted] had prisoners in this category and to arrange to have them taken to Bo Huc (XT 265205) or to Bo Ba Tay (XT 170250),

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Cambodia. Between April 1966 and March 1970, [redacted] had in his custody the three prisoners described below. [redacted] was not sure at which detention camp he saw them.

a. One Caucasian, probably an Australian, was captured in early October 1966 while he was enroute to Cholon via the Bien Hoa Highway. The prisoner stated that he was British born, a widower and, at the time he was captured, a civilian employee of the U.S. Water and Land Transportation Company located in the Thu Duc District. He was about 37 years of age, weight 200 pounds, ruddy complexion, round fat face and beautiful teeth. He wore a wrist watch with an old silver casing on a wide leather wrist strap which had been given to him by his wife who had recently died from tuberculosis. He had two children whom he had left with his sister in London before coming to Vietnam for a job with good pay.

b. One American prisoner was named "Mik Kal," Vietnamese phonetic spelling. He was about 34 years of age, round face, full head of wavy light brown hair, large nose, prominent ears, about six feet tall and weighed about 180 pounds. He was captured the morning of the second day of the first attack in the 1968 Tet Offensive at Chuong Cho ("5 corner") Crossroads, Co Vap District, Gia Dinh Province. "Mik Kal" was brought to a prison camp where he stayed for almost a month. The Viet Cong (VC) unit which had captured him said that when they had unsuccessfully attacked the Co Loa Camp, they had also attacked a neighboring American camp where "Mik Kal," whom they nicknamed "Major," was captured. However, "Mik Kal" claimed to be only a civilian working in a dog training unit. At the time he was captured, "Mik Kal" wore a T-shirt which had initials printed in a circle on the front and on the back there was a dog's head. Comment: [redacted] stated that it was a caricature of a dog with a black nose and long droopy ears.) "Mik Kal" had explained that this was the symbol of a dog training unit for which he worked. He wore a ring with a black stone on the middle finger of his right hand.

c. The second American prisoner was a 19-year old PFC (E-2), a member of the U.S. Army 5th Engineering Battalion stationed in Cu Chi, Hau Nghia Province, who had been captured when he wandered into a VC camp in about April 1968. The prisoner had been taken to a prison camp and had remained there for seven days. He claimed that he had been following a girl when he got lost and some children directed him to what turned out to be a VC camp. He was from the southwest United States and had olive skin and short black hair. He was a Spanish Catholic and when he prayed, he kissed his thumb. He said he was from the low labor class in the United States and that he had volunteered to come to Vietnam for better pay.

2. When [redacted] visited Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi in August 1965 during an Enemy Proselyting Department training course, he read brochures on five American prisoners and also talked with them. He remembered only two names: Schumacker, a Navy F-4 pilot, and Pine, a major and an F-105 pilot from Ubon, Thailand. The other three Americans were all F-105 pilots from Ubon.

3. During conversations regarding prisoners of war, [redacted] heard that Mr. Ramsey, a member of the U.S. Economic Mission (USAID), had been captured by the VC and in May 1969 Mr. Ramsey was still being held at a COSVN prison in Cambodia. He also heard that an Army NCO had been captured somewhere in the Ben Cat District, Binh Duong Province. This prisoner was nearsighted and wore very thick glasses, was a heavy smoker and very young.

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4. **Comment:** Preliminary coordination with the Joint Personnel Recovery Center /JPRC/, Saigon, identified "Nik Kal" as Michael H. Kjomo, GS-12, Pacific Architects and Engineers, who had been missing since 31 January 1969. The second U.S. prisoner was identified as PFC Ferdinand Rodriguez of the 65th Engineering Battalion, who was believed to have been captured on 21 April 1968. However, information on the remaining prisoners was insufficient for positive identification.)

5. **Field Dissem:** State USMACV USAID CORDS Dir/JUSPAO (Mr. Nickel Only) 7th Air Force USARV NAVFORV 525th MI Gp 6449 SAG OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.